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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/634,871	08/06/2003	Noam Kedem	246/217	7627
7590	05/18/2004		EXAMINER	
DR. MARK FRIEDMAN LTD. c/o Bill Polkinghorn Discovery Dispatch 9003 Florin Way Upper Marlboro, MD 20772			FIGUEROA, FELIX O	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	
			DATE MAILED: 05/18/2004	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/634,871	KEDEM, NOAM
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Felix O. Figueroa	2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 06 August 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(m) because they are too dark. See Figures 1A, 1B, 4 and 5.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the network router, the TV set top box and the mobile device, as required by claim 10, must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

The specification is objected because any abbreviation must be written out initially. For example, see USB, CPU and DIMM.

The use of the trademarks has been noted in this application. It should be capitalized wherever it appears and be accompanied by the generic terminology.

Although the use of trademarks is permissible in patent applications, the proprietary nature of the marks should be respected and every effort made to prevent their use in any manner which might adversely affect their validity as trademarks.

Claim Objections

Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: In claim 1 line 1, "an connector" should be --A connector--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3 and 5-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Meng (US 6,231,399).

Meng discloses a connector for connecting a host device to at least one peripheral device, comprising: a first port (14) facing in a first direction, and a second port (16) facing in a second direction substantially different from said first direction.

Regarding claim 2, Meng discloses the ports facing in opposite directions.

Regarding claim 3, Meng discloses the ports being substantially functionally identical.

Regarding claim 5, Meng discloses a system board (col.2, line 57) comprising the connector.

Regarding claim 6, Meng discloses the first port faces outward and the second port faces inward.

Regarding claim 7, Meng discloses a peripheral device (a card, not shown) operationally connected to the inward-facing port.

Regarding claims 8 and 9, Meng discloses a host device / computer (col.1, line 10) comprising the system board.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chang (US 6,383,028).

Chang discloses a connector (Fig.2) for connecting a host device to at least one peripheral device, comprising: a first port (left side) facing in a first direction, and a second port (right side) facing in a second direction substantially different from said first direction.

Regarding claim 2, Chang discloses the ports facing in opposite directions.

Regarding claim 3, Chang discloses the ports being substantially functionally identical.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4 and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meng.

Meng discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the specific connector type. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to elect a specific connector type (for example a USB connector) base on environmental requirements/preferences, in order to provide a space efficient assembly.

Regarding claim 10, Meng discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the specific host device. Meng teaches that the arrangement provides an efficient space usage. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the arrangement of Meng in different host devices, such as routers and mobile devices, in order to provide an efficient space usage.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Yu (US 6,375,511) and Ritchie et al. (US 4,220,382) disclose connectors with ports in different directions.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Felix O. Figueroa whose telephone number is (571) 272-2003. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri., 10:00am-6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (571) 272-2800 Ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ffr

Jax D. Zgusta



RENEE LUEBKE
PRIMARY EXAMINER